

10 Greatest Supply Chain Management Books of All Time

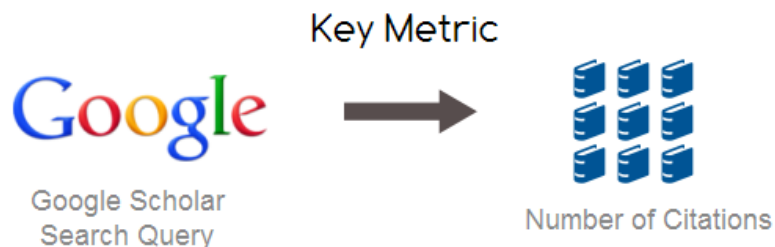


In dynamic supply chain environment, people have to make quick and decisive actions against various issues. This can only be achieved by the knowledge and skills of the team. Then companies try to motivate staffs to continue developing their skills on regular basis. For entry and mid level staffs, self-study has proven to be a cost-effective option. In order to facilitate smooth learning process, this article will show you

10 greatest supply chain management books that can help you reach your full career potential.

Ranking Method

In publishing industry, [Nielsen BookScan](#) is the most widely used database for book ranking method. In short, Nielsen provides point of sales data from various retail outlets and gross sales quantity will be summarized. Anyway, access to this database costs an arm and a leg. In logistics and scm area, most industry publications create ranking based on input from readers then editorial team makes final decision which is a bit subjective. Therefore, the challenge to establish ranking method is to find more economical data source and unbiased metric.



I'm sure some of you've been using Google Scholar to find related publications. As you may notice, search results will always show number of citations or how many times each publication is referred to by other paper as below screen shot,



Based on this information, ranking of 10 greatest supply chain management books of all time can be identified as below,

- Perform search query in Google Scholar.
- About 1,000 search results will be available.
- Number of citations of each book is collected.
- Only books visible in Google Scholar are qualified.
- If particular book has more than one record, only record from most current or most cited edition will be selected.

Results

And the winners of 10 Greatest Supply Chain Management Books of All Time go to...

POPULAR ARTICLES

[SCOR Model for Supply Chain Improvement](#)

[History of Logistics and Supply Chain Management \[INFOGRAPHIC\]](#)

[WMS Software : How to Build Successful Business Case](#)

[Supply Chain Mapping for Superior Performance](#)

[Value Stream Mapping in Supply Chain Management : How to Guide](#)

[Cross Docking Concept in Supply Chain Management](#)

[Supply Chain Management : 12 Disciplines for Operations Excellence](#)

[Logistics : Concept, Literature and Recommended Reading](#)

[Is Apple Supply Chain Really the No. 1? a Case Study](#)

[Green Supply Chain : Metrics, Analysis and Best Practices](#)

| Title | Author |
|---|---|
| - Designing and Managing the Supply Chain: Concepts, Strategies, and Case Studies | David Simchi-Levi, Philip Kaminsky and Edith Simchi-Levi |
| - Introduction to Supply Chain Management | Robert Handfield and Ernest Nichols Jr. |
| - Logistics and Supply Chain Management: Creating Value-Adding Networks | Martin Christopher |
| - Logistics Engineering and Management | Benjamin Blanchard |
| - Purchasing and Supply Chain Management | Robert Monczka, Robert Handfield, Larry Giunipero and James Patterson |
| - Purchasing and Supply Chain Management: Analysis, Strategy, Planning and Practice | Arjan J. Van Weele |
| - Strategic Logistics Management | James Stock and Douglas Lambert |
| - Supply Chain Logistics Management | Donald Bowersox, David Closs and Martha Cooper |
| - Supply Chain Management: Strategy, Planning, and Operation | Sunil Chopra and Peter Meindl |
| - The Resilient Enterprise: Overcoming Vulnerability for Competitive Advantage | Yossi Sheffi |

Best Supply Chain Management Books in Alphabetical Order

Interesting Statistics

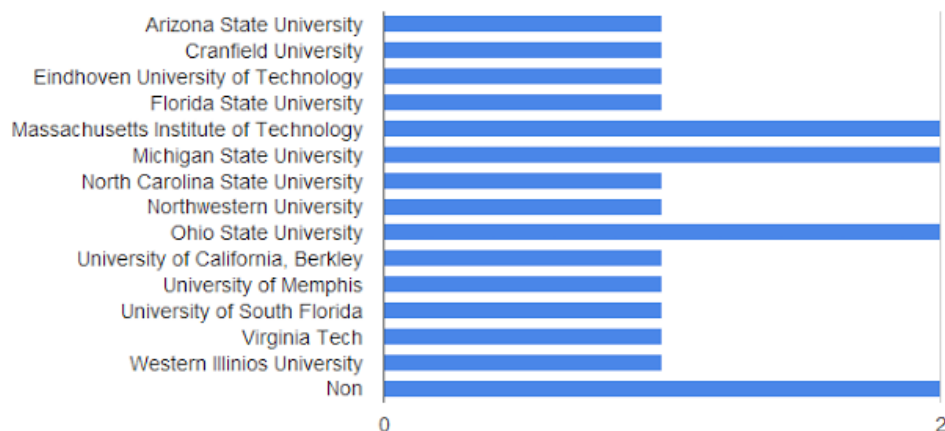
While conducting this survey, I've found some interesting statistics that I would like to share as below,

The reason citation is used to determine the impact of each book is so simple. The content is good then people refer to it often (number of citations is also used to measure the importance of journal articles aka **Impact Factor**). My personal observation is that scholarly articles cite books because most books present building block concept in supply chain management and citations usually appear in literature review section. Anyway, how often scholarly articles cite top supply chain management books?

| | Number of Citations |
|--------|---------------------|
| Min | 482 |
| Median | 964 |
| Max | 4038 |

To select graduate program, publication of professor is one of the indicators that reflect quality of the program. Most of the authors of best supply chain books are university professors so let's find out where they are now. As you can see, MIT, Michigan State University and Ohio State University have 2 authors each.

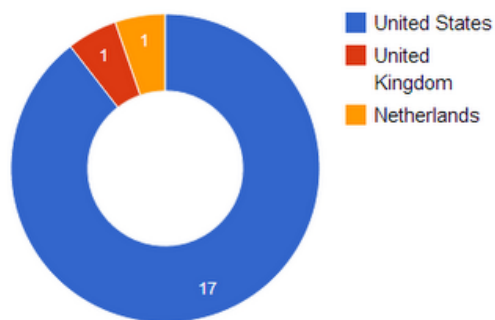
Author's University Affiliation (Current)



Another interesting thing I've found is that the United States appear to be the powerhouse in supply chain management. How about its counterpart in Europe? Professor Martin Christopher

and Professor Arjan J. Van Weele are 2 European professors who manage to be in the top list.

Author by Country



Some people may feel that the use of number of citations to do the ranking is the drawback because older books will have the edge over newer books (older books have the opportunity to get cited more). Statistics says this is not true. Some new books also manage to get into the top list as below,

Top Book by Year



Concluding Remark

Integration of supply chain management processes require good planning, implementing and controlling skills both within and across companies to reduce cost and improve service. Modern supply chain organization needs people who can put theory into practice and turn ideas into reality. So I hope this post will be a good resource for your future career endeavors.

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